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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Large Green Bay Apartment Building Takes Steps to Eliminate Stovetop Fires

[Green Bay, Wisc.]: The Safe-T-Element, a product aimed at reducing the chance of having a cooking fire, will soon be installed into 129 stoves at Mason Manor Apartments located at 1424 Admiral Ct., Green Bay, WI. This will be the first building in the area to be completely retrofitted. In 2008, Mason Manor received a grant that helped them to fund twenty stoves to be retrofitted with the Safe-T-Element and four more were outfitted in 2010. In November of 2010, a catastrophe was avoided in one of the apartments previously retrofitted with the Safe-T-Element. The resident left a pot of oil on the stove and fell asleep. Had the stove not had the Safe-T-Element, a cooking fire would have started.

The Safe-T-Element can turn any electric coil stove into a “fire-safe” appliance. The main concept behind this product is that it will shut off power to the burner when it reaches 662°F (this is more than hot enough to cook food). Many cooking fires are started when combustibles are placed too close to the stovetop or when someone leaves something unattended on the stove. Since the Safe-T-Element shuts the burner off at 662°F, common items that may be too close to a stovetop, such as cotton and paper will not ignite even when placed directly on the burner plate when the burner is set on high. The burner also shuts off well before the ignition temperature of cooking grease (vegetable and animal oils and fats). The temperature of the burner plate is constantly monitored and when it falls below 662°F, power is then restored to the burner.

Annually, cooking is responsible for more than 140,000 home fires, 450 deaths, 4,600 injuries, and nearly one billion dollars in damages. The National Fire Protection Association also reports that 67% of all cooking fires start on the stovetop.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 2pm, the Green Bay Fire Department will be at **1424 Admiral Court, Mason Manor Apartments** to answer questions that residents may have about the Safe-T-Element before their stoves are retrofitted later this month. Residents that currently have a retrofitted stove will be at the meeting as well.

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